

**BEFORE THE ARIZONA BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINERS**  
**IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

IN THE MATTER OF:

) **Case No.: 3850**

**JEROME PATRIDGE, D.O.**  
Holder of License No. 2031

) **CONSENT AGREEMENT TO FINDINGS**  
) **OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND**  
) **PROBATIONARY ORDER**

For the practice of osteopathic medicine in the  
State of Arizona

By mutual agreement and understanding, the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners (hereafter "Board") and Jerome Patridge, D.O. (hereinafter "Respondent"), the parties, hereto agree to the following disposition to this matter.

1. Respondent acknowledges that he has read this Consent Agreement and Order, and, Respondent is aware of and understands the content of these documents.

2. Respondent understands that by entering into this Consent Agreement and Order, he voluntarily relinquishes any rights to a hearing on the matters alleged as grounds for Board action or to seek judicial review of the Consent Agreement and Order in state or federal court.

3. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement and Order will not become effective unless approved by the Board and signed by its Executive Director.

4. Respondent further understands that this Consent Order and Order, once approved and signed, shall constitute a public record which will be disseminated as a formal action of the Board.

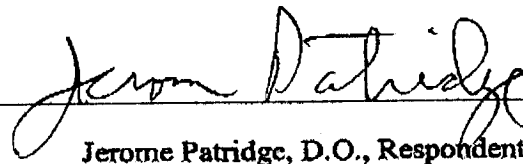
5. Respondent admits to the statement of facts and conclusions of law contained in the Consent Agreement & Order.

6. All admissions made by Respondent are solely for final disposition of this matter and any subsequent administrative proceedings or litigation involving the Board, Respondent and

1 the State of Arizona; and, therefore, said admissions by Respondent are not intended for any  
2 other purpose or administrative regulatory proceeding or litigation in another state or federal  
3 court.

4 7. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon signing and returning this  
5 document (or a copy thereof) to the Board's Executive Director, he may not later revoke or  
6 amend any part of the Consent Agreement and Order, without first obtaining Board approval.

7 REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED THIS 28 DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2007.

8  
9   
10 Jerome Patridge, D.O., Respondent

11 **JURISDICTIONAL STATEMENTS**

12 1. The Board is empowered, pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-1800 et seq. to regulate the  
13 licensing and practice of osteopathic medicine in Arizona.

14 2. The Board has the authority to informally dispose by stipulation, agreed  
15 settlement, consent order or default pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1092.05 (F)(5).

16 3. Respondent holds license No. 2103 to practice osteopathic medicine in Arizona.

17 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

18 4. On or about February 26, 2007, Board staff received information that Respondent  
19 may have a substance abuse problem and may diverting drugs from his patients for self-  
20 medication.

21 5. On the same day, Board staff reviewed the Respondent's licensing history and  
22 determined that the Respondent had been previously disciplined for facts of a similar nature and  
23 kind.

24 6. On February 27, 2007, the Respondent was interviewed about the information  
25 concerning possible drug abuse. Respondent admitted that he had relapse on or about December

1 2006 and had been diverting Demerol from his patients and self-medicating. Respondent  
2 admitted to using 300-400 mgs of Demerol per day.

3 7. On February 27, 2007, the Respondent agreed to seek treatment for his current  
4 relapse, and he has substantively participated in this Board inquiry.

5 8. The Board voted in public session on March 3, 2007 to enter into a Stipulation  
6 and Consent Order.

### 7 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

8 1. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1800, et seq. the Arizona Board of Osteopathic  
9 Examiners in Medicine and Surgery has subject matter and personal jurisdiction in this matter.

10 2. The conduct and circumstances described in paragraphs 4 through 8 above  
11 constitute unprofessional conduct as defined in the following paragraphs of A.R.S. § 32-1854:

12 (3) Practicing medicine while under the influence of alcohol, narcotic or hypnotic drugs  
13 or any substance that impairs or may impair the licensee's ability to safely and skillfully  
14 practice medicine.

15 (6) Engaging in the practice of medicine in a manner that harms or may harm a patient or  
16 that the Board determines falls below the community standard.

17 (22) Using controlled substances or prescription-only drugs unless they are provided by a  
18 medical practitioner, . . . , as part of a lawful course of treatment.

19 (38) Any conduct or practice that endangers a patient's or the public's health or may  
20 reasonably be expected to do so.

### 21 ORDER

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED AND AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

23 Pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-1855 (C) and 41-1064 (C), License No. 2031 held by  
24 **JEROME PATRIDGE, D.O., ("Respondent")** shall be placed on **PROBATION** for 5 years  
25 from the date of this order with the following terms and conditions of probation as set forth  
herein:

1           1.     Respondent shall not practice medicine until such time as he successfully  
2 completes an in-patient evaluation and in-patient treatment program as recommended by a  
3 treatment and care facility approved by the Executive Director. Respondent must adhere to any  
4 and all recommendations of his evaluators upon release from the in-patient treatment program  
5 and appear before the Board prior to practicing medicine in the State of Arizona.<sup>1</sup>

6           2.     Respondent will develop a plan for aftercare treatment and monitoring which  
7 shall include, but may not be limited to, individual and/or group counseling sessions, random  
8 body fluid testing, agreement for release of treatment records and reports to the Board,  
9 prohibition of the use of alcohol and controlled substances unless the latter is prescribed or  
10 coordinated by his treating physician, and regular meeting with the Board, and submit this plan  
11 to the Board for its approval.

12           3.     From the date of this Order, Respondent shall obtain psychiatric or psychological  
13 treatment by a therapist(s) who is either a licensed psychiatrist and/or psychologist and is  
14 selected by Respondent and approved by the Board. Respondent shall comply with the therapist  
15 recommendation for the frequency of therapy treatment sessions. Respondent shall inform the  
16 Board by letter (mailed within ten days of the date of this Order) of the therapist's name; and,  
17 Respondent shall undertake and fully cooperate with a program of treatment established by the  
18 therapist. In the event Respondent changes therapists, he shall give the Board written notice  
19 within ten (10) days of said action. Respondent shall not discontinue or reduce the frequency of  
20 psychotherapy sessions until he has submitted a written request to the Board and obtained Board  
21 approval.

22           4.     Respondent's therapist(s) shall receive a copy of this Order and Board staff shall  
23 cooperate with and disclose all relevant information in the Board's files concerning Respondent.  
24 The treating therapist shall be directed by Respondent to send to the Board a detailed written  
25

---

<sup>1</sup> The matter would be agendized on the first available regular meeting.

1 progress report every month for the remainder of the probation; and Respondent, shall waive any  
2 confidentiality concerning his psychotherapy in order that the Board may receive full disclosure  
3 of information. The expense of the aforementioned therapy and the reports to the Board by  
4 Respondent's therapist shall be the sole responsibility of the Respondent.

5 5. Respondent shall provide a copy of this Order and any subsequent Orders to all  
6 facilities where Respondent is currently (or subsequently) employed as a physician and/or has (or  
7 subsequently receives) privileges to engage in the practice of medicine. Respondent shall  
8 provide a copy of this Order to all treating physicians, dentists and or health care professionals.  
9 Respondent shall continue to make the aforementioned disclosure and provide copies of this  
10 Consent Order until the expiration of this Order.

11 6. Respondent may have his license to practice as an osteopathic physician  
12 restricted, suspended or revoked by the Board in the future if:

- 13 (a) The Board finds that Respondent does not have the requisite mental, physical and  
14 emotional fitness to safely continue the practice of medicine; or,  
15 (b) There are new grounds for finding unprofessional conduct concerning  
16 Respondent; or,  
17 (c) Fails to comply fully with the terms and conditions of this Order.

18 6. Respondent shall abstain completely from the consumption of alcoholic beverages  
19 or any substance with alcohol (i.e. cough syrups); and, Respondent shall not consume illicit  
20 drugs or take any controlled substances (i.e., prescription only drugs), unless his treating  
21 physician prescribes such medication for him with the awareness that Respondent has a  
22 substance abuse disorder. Respondent shall maintain a monthly log (for the duration of  
23 probation) of all prescription only drugs taken by him and such log shall include the following  
24 information:

- 25 (a) the name of the medication;  
(b) name of prescribing physician;  
(c) reason for the medication.

1           7.     At the first of each month, Respondent shall report by letter to the Board whether  
2 or not he is taking any prescription only medication and, if so, a copy of his log reflecting the  
3 above information.

4           8.     Respondent shall also, as part of his probation: (A) submit to and cooperate in  
5 any independent medical or psychological evaluation that is ordered by the Board for  
6 Respondent and conducted by the Board's designated physician and/or psychologist which shall  
7 be paid for by Respondent; and (B) appear before the Board, upon receipt of a request by written  
8 or telephonic notification from the Board's executive director which shall be given at least five  
9 (5) days prior to the Board meeting; and, (C) submit to random biological fluid testing and  
10 promptly provide (i.e., within sixty (60) minutes of notification) required biological fluids for  
11 testing and said testing shall be done at the Respondent's expense.

12           9.     Respondent shall participate in 90 meetings in 90 days upon his discharge from  
13 the treatment facility and then in a minimum of three (3) self-help meetings per week through  
14 such organizations as A.A., N.A., C.A. and doctor's Caduceus group. Respondent shall keep a  
15 log of all meetings attended and have the log signed by the chairperson of the meeting.  
16 Respondent will provide the Board with a copy of the signed log the first of every month.

17           10.    In the event Respondent moves and ceases to practice medicine in Arizona, he  
18 shall give written notice to the Board of his new residence address within twenty (20) days of  
19 moving; and, the terms and duration of probation may be stayed by the Board until Respondent  
20 returns to practice medicine in Arizona.

21           11.    Respondent shall reimburse the Board for all expenses associated with the  
22 continued monitoring of this matter.

23           12.    Respondent shall continue to meet all licensing requirements such as continuing  
24 medical education and renewal requirements including applicable fees pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-  
25 1825.

1           13.     The Board's Executive Director shall send correspondence to the appropriate state  
2 and/or federal law enforcement agency disclosing information in the Board's possession which  
3 may establish criminal misconduct by Respondent, i.e., illicit use of controlled substances.

4           14.     Respondent's failure to comply with the requirements of this Order shall  
5 constitute unprofessional conduct as defined at A.R.S. § 32-1854(26), as amended, and may be  
6 considered as grounds for further disciplinary action (e.g., suspension or revocation of license) in  
7 the event that Respondent fails to comply with any of the requirements of this Order.



8                               ISSUED THIS 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2007.

9                               STATE OF ARIZONA  
10                              BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINERS IN  
11                              MEDICINE AND SURGERY

12                             By: [Signature]  
13                                 Jack Confer, Executive Director

14     Original "Consent Agreement to  
15     Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law,  
16     and Probationary Order" filed this 5<sup>th</sup>  
17     day of March, 2007 with the:

18     Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners  
19     In Medicine and Surgery  
20     9535 East Doubletree Ranch Road  
21     Scottsdale AZ 85258-5539

22     Copy of the foregoing "Consent Agreement to  
23     Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law,  
24     and Probationary Order" sent via certified,  
25     return receipt requested this 5<sup>th</sup>  
26     day of March, 2007 to:

27     Jerome Patridge, D.O.  
28     80 Verde Street  
29     Clarkdale, AZ 86324

30     Copies of the foregoing "Consent Agreement to  
31     Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law,  
32     and Probationary Order" sent via regular  
33     mail this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2007 to:

1 Blair Driggs, AAG  
2 Office of the Attorney General CIV/LES  
3 1275 West Washington  
4 Phoenix AZ 85007

5 *Kathy Fowkes*  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25